

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 14 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b).

Claims 1-3, 6 and 9-12 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yasuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,842,371) (hereinafter "Yasuda et al.") in view of Saishu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,391) (hereinafter "Saishu et al.").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection of claims 1-3, 6 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper, and therefore should be withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 6 and 9-12 remain pending in this application for further consideration with claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 14 being withdrawn from further consideration .

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 6 and 9-12 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yasuda et al. in view of Saishu et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

In the previous Amendment filed on November 14, 2005, Applicants presented detailed arguments that Yasuda et al. and Saishu et al., whether taken individually or in combination, do

not teach or suggest the electric field alignment of a ferroelectric liquid crystal (FLC) display device of the present invention.

In response, the Final Office Action still alleges in Section 10 that “Yasuda discloses an electric field alignment method of a twisted nematic (TN) liquid crystal display device (see Column 22, Lines 17-21),” and that “Saishu clearly does disclose using ferroelectric liquid crystal (FLC) in place of twisted nematic (TN) liquid crystal (see Column 1, Lines 20-32).” Applicants respectfully disagree.

According to the disclosure in Column 22, Lines 17-21 of Yasuda et al., two polarizing plates sandwiching the TN liquid crystal layer have respective polarizing directions either parallel or perpendicular to each other. Such a disclosure merely teaches or suggests an alignment caused by the polarization, but has nothing to do with an alignment caused by an external electric field. It appears that the Final Office Action suggests the polarization alignment of Yasuda et al. as the electric field alignment of the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that such a suggestion is incorrect because the polarization is generated by the polarizing plates while the electric field is generated by applying voltage to common electrode and pixel electrode. Applicants respectfully assert that Yasuda et al. is completely silent about the electric field alignment of the present invention, and therefore should be withdrawn. Moreover, Saishu et al. merely mentions using ferroelectric liquid crystal material because of its spontaneous polarization. Similarly, Applicants respectfully submit that Saishu et al. is also completely silent about the electric field alignment of the present invention.

MPEP § 2143.03 instructs that “[t]o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 409

F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580.(CCPA 1974)." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Final Office Action has not established a prima facie obviousness rejection.

For at least the reasons as those discussed above and the arguments presented in Amendment filed on November 14, 2005, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because Yasuda et al. and Saishu et al., whether taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 1 and 9. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of dependent claims 2-3, 6 and 10-12 should also be withdrawn at least because of their dependencies upon respective independent claims 1 and 9 and for the reasons set forth above.

With no other rejections pending, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-3, 6 and 9-12 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

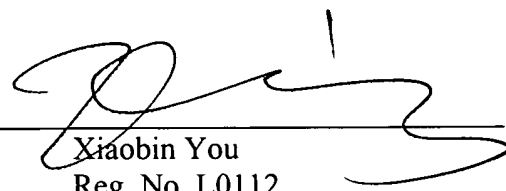
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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